

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 17-25, and 30-55 have been cancelled and Claims 13, 15, and 26 have been amended in response to Examiner rejections and objections. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested. Claims 13-16 and 26-29 remain pending in the application. Claims 13, 15, and 26 are independent claims.

The application as originally filed included 55 claims, two of which were independent. The application as amended herein includes eight claims, three of which are independent. Accordingly, no additional filing fee is payable as a result of this amendment.

Examiner has rejected Claims 1-12 and 17-25 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Schenach (US5447642) in view of Fortier (US5942128). Examiner has objected to Claims 13-16 and 26-29 as dependent on a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, Claims 1-12 and 17-25 have been cancelled, and Claims 13, 15, and 26 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of base Claim 1 and, for Claims 13 and 15, all of the limitations of intervening Claim 11. Claims 1-12 and 17-25 have been cancelled to expedite allowance of the instant application. No admission of non-patentability is intended, nor should such an admission be inferred.

Claims 30-55, previously withdrawn from consideration, have been cancelled as directed to a non-elected invention. No admission of non-patentability is intended, nor should such an admission be inferred.

In view of the above, it is submitted that Claims 13-16 and 26-29 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is respectfully requested. Allowance of Claims 13-16 and 26-29 at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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